

A NEW SPECIES OF ACER FROM GUATEMALA

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Acer Skutchii, sp. nov.

Arbor ad 20-metralis, trunco 75 cm. diam., ramulis maturis glabris; gemma terminalis ovoidea, 4 mm. longa, perularum paribus 5–6, superioribus fulvo-villosulis, inferioribus glabrescentibus. Folia fere ad medium palmato-5-loba, 12–16 cm. longa, 14–20 lata, basi cordata sinu clauso lobis sese tegentibus, lobis triangulari-ovatis acuminatis, medio lateralibus paullo majore, leviter sinuato-lobulatis lobulis utrinque plerumque 2 rotundatis raro acutiusculis, lobis basalibus brevissimis acutis, supra glabra, subtus glauca, nervis primariis et secundariis elevatis dense villosotomentosus, in facie sparse lanuginoso-villosa, reticulata; petioli 2.5–11 cm. longi, dense villosotomentosi. Flores non visi. Inflorescentia, fructifera corymbosa valde ramosa, glabra, pedicellis ad 3 cm. longis; fructus alis ascendentibus angulo angusto divertigentibus, loculis circa 1 cm. longis 7–8 mm. diam. vix complanatis lateraliter obtusissime costatis laevibus supra et subtus leviter carinatis, alis 3.5–4.5 cm. longis et 1.2–1.4 cm. latis.

GUATEMALA. Dept. of Quiche: Nebaj, beside stream in open, alt. 6200 ft., *A. F. Skutch*, no. 1667, Nov. 15, 1934, "tree to 60 ft., diam. of trunk 30 in., leaves turning bright red and falling" (type in Herb. Arnold Arb.).

This new species is closely related to *Acer nigrum* Michx. f. and *A. saccharum* Marsh. and in its pubescence resembles *A. saccharum* var. *Schneckii* Rehd., but is easily distinguished by the large leaves deeply cordate at the base with closed sinus; in the latter character it agrees with *A. nigrum*, but the pubescence in *A. nigrum* is pilose, not villous-tomentose, and the under side of the leaves is green. From both species *A. Skutchii* differs in its much larger fruits with smooth, not reticulate, nutlets which are compressed from above and almost as broad as high, not laterally compressed with evenly rounded surfaces on both sides; the wings are up to 4.5 cm. long and to 1.4 cm. broad, while in *A. saccharum* and *A. nigrum* they are 1.5–3 cm. long and 0.6–1 cm. broad. There may be other differences in the flowers which are yet unknown.

At first I was uncertain whether this maple might not better be considered a variety of *A. saccharum*, since the differences are not of great morphological value, but its general appearance is strikingly different from the sugar maple, particularly in the thick, large and smooth nutlets which distinguish it at once; it is also geographically well separated, for *A. saccharum* ranges south only to eastern Texas, and is not found in Mexico at all.

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